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MADRAS RECORD OFFICE

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Revenue DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.
B.P. No.

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Dated

17-4-1973

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*Proceedings of the Madras Government Public Works Department,
12th April 1873.*

No. 209. Read the following endorsement of the Revenue Department, dated 23rd January 1873:—

Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 17th January 1873, No. 4.

From the Acting Collector of the Chingleput District, to the Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Saidapet, 14th December 1872, No. 517.

As directed in paragraph 3 of G. O., Public Works Department, dated 22nd October last, No. 2,487, communicated with the Board's Miscellaneous No. 7,345, dated 5th ultimo, I have the honour to forward a list of Agricultural Minor New Works, and in doing so to state that as the estimates for them had been all returned to the Superintending Engineer, some time before the order under reference was received, the amounts for sluices and calingulas cannot, where they were estimated for together, be distinguished.

2. As regards paragraph 2, it will be observed from the list that the estimates provide generally for new masonry works, and re-construction or restoration, as stated in paragraph 5 of my letter No. 57 of 1872, and not for mere small additions or simple repairs to the existing ones, such as to warrant their being undertaken from the ordinary annual repair grant.

3. With reference to paragraph 3, I have the honour to report that the estimates in question have been, I find, accumulating since 1866-67; the practice in this district has been to countersign and retain only such as were considered most urgent, and keep back the rest for selection in future years; but the grant for these works having been for intervening years very small, their number increased rapidly.

4. I may add that I do not approve of this practice, and that, previous to the receipt of the G. O. under reply, I had sent all such estimates to the Superintending Engineer, with reference to certain arrangements in contemplation to improve the system, hitherto followed in apportioning allotments to the different taluqs, and in selecting estimates for execution.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.—List of Agricultural Minor New Works.

SUBMITTED to Government with reference to the Order quoted by the Collector.
(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) J. GROSE,
Secretary.

TRANSFERRED to the Department Public Works with reference to the order quoted:

(Signed) D. CARMICHAEL,
Secretary to Government.

No. 110.

No. 210. Note by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

The list transmitted with the Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, No. 64, dated 17th January 1873, contains sixteen works exceeding the limit within which

the District Engineer has the power of sanctioning Minor New Works Agricultural, and the plans and estimates, of such works as it may be deemed desirable to carry out, should be transmitted to this office for examination.

2. If all the minor new works included in the list are required, it will manifestly take many years before the work of the irrigation works in the Chingleput District in this respect can be supplied; but this is the greater reason why steady progress should be made year by year. In the current year up to the 31st December not a single work appears to have been undertaken, and it is useless to talk of the insufficiency of the allotments if the water even are not utilized.

3. The provision of surplus weirs for all except isolated works, which in this district are comparatively few in number, must be considered in connection with the circumstances of all the tanks in the same major catchment basin. The way in which irrigation works are to be grouped has already been pointed out in full detail in G. O., No. 1,030, dated 3rd April, and the District Engineer and his Range Officers should set to work to ascertain the requirements of each group of tanks, and proceed to estimate for each sub-group, or, in other words, for each minor catchment basin, and then arrange to construct the surplus weirs of all the tanks in such minor basin simultaneously or in one season.

4. Sluices can be constructed as fast as funds and proper supervision can be provided. Care must however be taken not to allow a greater number of such works than the area and circumstances of the cultivation under each tank really render necessary. The villagers have been in the habit, in some districts, of making numerous cuts in the bunds of tanks, and often such cuts have been many times as numerous as they need have been. No sluice should therefore be sanctioned for construction until the Range Officer has himself inspected the tank, ascertained its necessity, and selected the site, and every estimate for such a work should exhibit at the top the area of irrigation, the number of existing sluices, and the number considered requisite to provide fully for the wants and convenience of the lands under the tank. In the course of two or three years every tank should be inspected by the Range Officers, and a large number of them by the District Engineer; and, if proper care be taken in noting down what may be needed to make them in all respects efficient, and the order in which the several descriptions of work should be carried out, there will not be the greatest difficulty in making use of the Repair and Minor New Works Funds to the advantage, or in instructing the sub-divisional establishment as to what estimates, which the Range Officer may himself be unable to prepare, are to be made out.

5. Attention has already been called in the Circular as per margin to the need of a careful pre-arrangement of the work to be undertaken each season, and with the scheme laid out, is required to be essential of course that Range Officers should be made acquainted with their charges, and District Engineers should be given systematic treatment not only of irrigation, but of all kinds of works will be impossible. It is to be hoped therefore that transfers of Range Officers are unavoidable, the relieving officer will be discouraged, and that, when a report of the work done, as compared with the scheme laid out, is submitted at the close of each year, the Range Officers should become intimately acquainted with their districts, otherwise the system of all kinds of works will be impossible. It is to be hoped therefore that transfers of Range Officers are unavoidable, the relieving officer will be discouraged, and that, when a report of the work done, as compared with the scheme laid out, is submitted at the close of each year, the Range Officers should become intimately acquainted with their districts, otherwise the system of all kinds of works will be impossible.

will be required to take over charge in a manner as will ensure his acquaintance with all the works in progress or proposed. This arrangement was in force some years back, but of late years there have been many instances of officers leaving their ranges before the arrival, or even nomination, of a successor, and such a course is fatal to efficient management.

6. Seeing the apparently pressing need for a very considerable expenditure on Minor New Works Agricultural in the Chingleput District, I shall be prepared, as soon as I am convinced that works immediately undertaken have been selected and designed by competent officers, to recommend that funds to double or treble the usual annual allotment for this purpose, shall be made available. Additional grants may this year be provided by transfer from Repair Funds, and in future years it will be well to increase the reserve under Agricultural to such an extent as the well-considered demands of the District Engineers may indicate to be necessary. I have, for some years past, strongly advocated the efficient management of existing works, in preference to the construction of new works, and justice and prudence alike are, I think, in favour of this course being steadily pursued. If establishments are unequal to do all that may be desirable, they should understand that their first duty is to put, and maintain in good working order every existing public work, at any rate to the full extent that funds can be made available.

VALEPANOOR,
22nd February 1873.

(Signed) MULLINS, Lieut.-Colonel, R. E.,
Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

No. 211.

ORDER THEREON, 12th April 1873, No. 1,093.

IRRIGATION, No. 14.

His Excellency the Governor in Council regrets to learn from the Chief Engineer for Irrigation that no outlay whatever had been effected on the minor new works of the Chingleput District during the first nine months of 1872-73. And he has since been reported by the District Engineer that he surrenders Rupees 2,000 out of the allotment of Rupees 5,000 for Minor New Works Agricultural. This inaction in a district in which estimates to the amount of nearly 1½ lakhs of Rupees for minor new works had been sent up for sanction has not been accounted for in any way. And the Chief Engineer for Irrigation will be so good as to examine into and report in detail respecting the causes to which it is to be attributed. Consideration will be given to the nature of the agency employed by Range Officers and Overseers. Whether they can readily obtain the co-operation of the villagers; whether they are altogether in the hands of contractors, these are points on which the Government would desire report, as giving a clue to the condition of the Public Works Department in the rural portion of the Chingleput District. It is evidently of no use to prepare hundreds of estimates when that are annually made available; and, with a view to the better disposal of the money annually allotted for Minor New Works Agricultural, His Excellency the Governor in Council is pleased to order that the same system shall hold good with reference to it as has been introduced by G. O., No. 2,972, of 16th December 1872.

with reference to the allotments for rural repairs, namely, the retention of the bulk of the grant at the disposal of the Chief Engineer for Irrigation on demand from the districts, the original allotment to each of which, on the 1st April 1873, shall not exceed Rupees 1,000.

(Contract.)

W. H. R. E. Colonel, R.E.,
Secretary to Government.

To District Engineers.
To the Controller of Public Works Accounts.
„ Board of Revenue.
„ Revenue Department.
„ Chief Engineer for Irrigation.

Revenue. *Dep*

N. 1091.

Gobt. of 1873 Madras.

PUBLIC WORKS.

To

DISTRICT ENGINEERS,

&c., &c., &c.

Dated April 12th.

Recd. *a 16th*

Encl.

G. O., 12th April 1873, No. 1,093.

Dec
APRIL

Nos. 209-211

Agricultural Minor New Works in the
Chingleput District. — Passing orders on
papers relating to the small outlay on
Agricultural Works during 1872-73.

N. 56.

Decided

MD

1873